



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/news>

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Barber Lake Empty

(Douglas, June 2, 2009) -- To improve fishing conditions at Barber Lake, the Laramie Ranger District decided not to fill the lake with water this summer. The lake area is still open to the public, but the lake will be completely dry so a land survey can measure the lake bottom to make a contour map. The current lake basin allows water to drain too quickly. A contour map will help the Medicine Bow National Forest determine how to improve the contouring to better retain water in the lake year round. The Forest is evaluating the entire site this summer to develop integrated plans for the lake area to improve fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat and recreational opportunities at the lake.

The naturally low level of the lake each winter allows the lake to completely freeze, killing all the stocked fish. The future recontouring of the lake bottom and other work to slow the draining of water will let fish survive the winter.

Alternate fishing opportunities for those that require wheelchair access is available at Lake Owen and Mirror Lake. For more information please contact William Munro at the Laramie Ranger District Office (307) 745-2300.

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